



Transportation District 3
October 2000

Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin Michigan Street Bridge Project newsletter

Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of a newsletter published by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) with information regarding the Michigan Street Bridge in Sturgeon Bay, WI and what will be its future. A newsletter is a good way to update residents on the bridge and alternatives being considered. It will be published when there is a need for updated information.

Important dates

- Traffic counts taken April -Oct. 2000
- Traffic study completion January, 2001
- Alignment/geometrics study completion February 2001
- Begin draft Environmental Document February 2001
- Public hearing August 2001
- Preferred alternative chosen September 2001

Project purpose and need

- Provide a functional, reliable downtown transportation link across Sturgeon Bay.
- Serve present and future bicycle, pedestrian, vehicular and marine traffic needs.
- Provide a facility compatible with existing and future downtown, city comprehensive planning.

This project is needed because:

- The existing bridge width and vertical clearance make it Functionally Obsolete.
- The existing bridge condition and load-carrying capacity of some members make it Structurally Deficient.
- The existing bridge is posted for a five-ton load limit.
- The bridge is subject to recurring maintenance.

Five bridge alternatives are being considered:

- 1) Do nothing/no build - continue to maintain existing structure
- 2) Bridge rehabilitation - includes partial replacement of existing bridge
- 3) Bridge replication - restoring or replicating existing bridge
- 4) Bridge replacement
- 5) Combinations of numbers 1, 2 or 3 with number 4 are also being considered

Two corridors being further studied:

- 1) Madison Avenue to Michigan Avenue (existing bridge)
 - 2) Maple Street to Oregon Street
- (In addition, a combination of both numbers 1 and 2 is being considered)



WisDOT District 3
P.O. Box 28080
Green Bay, WI
54324-0080

A newsletter published by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to keep citizens informed.

Need a bridge?

When a bridge needs building, you call WisDOT. The department is tasked with managing all federal funds, in addition to state monies, used for bridge construction in Wisconsin. In most cases, we manage and facilitate the bridge building projects, regardless of their location. This includes the Michigan Street Bridge project in Sturgeon Bay.

Project history

It helps you know where you are going when you take a look at where you've been. Here are a few important dates to show where we've been:

- September 1994 - WisDOT meets with city on proposed replacement
- February 1996 - Design consultant selected and design work begins
- August 1996 - City informed that WisDOT will continue to own and maintain bridge upon project completion
- February 1997 - Coordination letters sent out to national, state and local organizations and agencies
- June 1997 - Public informational meeting held
- January 1998 - Public informational meeting held
- June 1998 - Panel discussion with legislators, local leaders and citizen groups
- August 1998 - Public forum sponsored by City
- February 2000 - Citizens Group sponsored bridge tour
- May 2000 - WisDOT begins studying Maple/Oregon corridor
- May 2000 - Roundtable discussion with interested groups and organizations
- June 2000 - Public informational meeting

Individuals wishing to be added to our mailing list should contact:

**Mike King
Project Development Supervisor
Green Bay Transportation District
P.O. Box 28080
Green Bay, WI**

Bridge maintenance study launched

An independent engineering firm, BRW, will conduct an in-depth physical assessment of the Michigan Street Bridge in Sturgeon Bay.

The assessment concentrates on a physical assessment of the lift span and approaches to it. This includes a study of the mechanical components of the bridge and also substructure components of the bascule piers.

According to George McLeod, district director, "The primary purpose of this study is to help us make sure we are making the proper maintenance decisions so that the bridge can continue to remain open."

While the bridge is in no immediate danger of being closed, WisDOT is seeking a second opinion on what needs to be done to keep the bridge operating now and into the future.

WisDOT focus

McLeod explained, "While the focus is on current operational needs, we thought it prudent to expand the study to consider what would be needed to continue operating the bridge 10 and 25 years into the future."

This report is scheduled for completion in 2001. Although the study is not part of this project, information from this study will be used to evaluate various project alternatives and included in the project environmental document.